

November 27, 2006

Contact: **Ric Johnston** (208) 332-1937
Statewide Facilities Manager, Division of Public Works

About the Idaho Statehouse Christmas Tree ...

The **Statehouse Christmas Tree** was cut on November 20, from the residence of **Chris and Teresa Gunny**, 3831 North Farlight Place, Boise. The large Engelmann Spruce tree, nearly 45 feet tall, was originally planted in 1981 by previous home owners of the Gunny residence, Reg and Karalee Dobbs, to commemorate the birth of their son. The tree, which has grown through the years, is also shared on the property line of their neighbors, **Tom and Linda Coughlin**, 3785 North Farlight Place.



Adding to the excitement of the actual tree cutting was the participation of the Gunney's daughter, **Kayla** along with other fourth graders in **Mrs. Mary Koch's class** at nearby **Frontier Elementary School**. The school children collected pine cones from the tree for the making of ornaments.

Governor Jim Risch and **First Lady Vicki Risch** will host the [*Official Capitol Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 30.*](#)

The following entities donated support for the cutting, transport and placement of the Statehouse Tree this year:

Crane West of Boise provided a large crane for lifting the tree from its original site to the truck and eventual placement on the Front Steps.

The **Department of Lands** provided sawyers to cut the tree.

The **Department of Transportation** provided a truck, trailer, and driver for transport.

Boise City Police provided escort for transportation of the tree from the Gunny residence to the Statehouse.

United Rental of Boise provided an 80-ft lift for **Department of Administration Facilities Services** personnel to use in decorating the tree with over 12,000 energy efficient LED lights.